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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. As far as I know, amnesty was the only ameliorative measure which had been introduced by the MALENKOV government in the USSR prior to May 1953. I believe that the amnesty was in fact at least partially carried out because of my brother's return from exile and the release of several acquaintances from forced labor camps. At the time my [redacted] 10 other prisoners - three of them Estonians - were also released. My brother was released after serving part of a political sentence for serving with the German Army in World War II. Although I was acquainted with other cases of people who had been released, it was my impression that no other political prisoners had been freed. I did not hear of any elderly people being amnestied. For the most part only prisoners serving short sentences were set free and, since many of these were criminals, most of them would be back in prison soon anyway.
2. The standard of living fell in Estonia during the years 1946 to 1952, in spite of the fact that there were more goods available in the stores, because people were less able to buy anything. I heard that whenever there were price cuts anywhere in the USSR, work norms were always raised at least an equivalent amount to make up for them.
3. Housing was very short in Estonia. Quarters which were vacated by people who escaped to the West or who were sent away under arrest were occupied by Russians who moved in. It was very difficult to get quarters in town. [redacted] the rayon office told me I could not have a place to stay in town and that I would have to return to the kolkhoz to live.

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4. Medical facilities were available [redacted] in the form of one doctor 70 years old, with one reidschner and two nurses to assist him, and a hospital with another doctor in charge. Medicines were in very short supply. Medical attention at home was possible, but rare. It seemed that the doctors were not interested in taking care of their patients. I attribute the death of my father to lack of attention and care on the part of the local doctors. I know of a case of a young man who died as a result of an inoculation [redacted] Health conditions were much worse than before World War II.
5. The churches were still open in Estonia, but so many priests had been arrested that there were few regular church services. The dominant religion of Estonia remained Lutheran, and the Lutheran churches still outnumbered the churches of other faiths, including Russian Orthodoxy. Most young people were afraid to go to church because of the strong Party propaganda against religion and church attendance. It was mainly the old people who continued to go to church. I know that the priest of the one Lutheran church in Halliste N 58-10, E 25-25 had become a kolkhoz member. Most of the churches in Tallinn N 59-25, E 24-42 were closed.
6. There were few facilities for recreation. The young people went perhaps once a week to a club for dancing. They were not very interested in going to the movies because they thought the films were too full of propaganda.
7. There were a lot of beggars in Estonia, but not as many as I saw in other parts of Russia. I was especially struck by the number of beggars at railway stations through which I passed. In 1948 and 1949 thousands of beggars came to Estonia carrying little packs on the end of a stick. They probably had heard that things were better in Estonia, and perhaps assumed this because they knew that Communism had not been in power in Estonia as long as in other sections of the Soviet Union. I suppose, too, that some of these beggars came from sections of the Soviet Union where there was famine. In this connection, the following anecdote was frequently heard in Estonia. STALIN was supposed to have seen a kolkhoz farmer passing the Kremlin and to have called him in to talk to him. He asked the kolkhoz member if he understood what "tempo" meant. STALIN pointed to the street below and said: "You see there is one trolley passing by. Within a year there will be two; in three years there will be three; in five years' time there will be an unbroken string of trolleys passing by. That's "tempo." The Estonian gave a similar definition of tempo saying: "You look out on the street today and you see one beggar; next year you see two; in five years you will see nothing but beggars."
8. I have heard that almost no one wanted to join the collective farms in Estonia and it was my impression that most collective farmers were deeply dissatisfied with their lot.
9. I cannot remember any specific occasions when my parents expressed resentment of the Soviet regime, but I recall grumbling about the regime myself when drinking and talking with two or three close friends. These conversations usually concluded on the theme that "perhaps there will be a war soon and we will be rid of Communism". Many Estonians hoped for war soon between the Soviet Union and the US to liberate them from Soviet control. Only a few fools believed the Soviet anti-American propaganda. I think that most Estonians were aware that the Russian people themselves were not guilty of the imposition of Communism on Estonia, but Estonians in general wanted above all independence from the USSR and a border between Estonia and the USSR. I believe that harmonious relations could be established and maintained between the Estonians and the Russians

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if a border were established and if the Russians remained on their side of it. However, it is well known that the Russians have long wanted Estonia and since the time of PETER the GREAT they have attempted to hew a window into Europe through Estonia.

10. We knew from the radio that "the free world begins in Western Germany". Although I heard nothing about Estonian emigre organizations in Western Germany, I knew that many Estonians had remained there after World War II and I expected assistance from them and from Americans in Western Germany. In running away from Communism and Communists I did not even consider fleeing to Poland or Eastern Germany instead of to Western Germany, because I know they had the same kind of Communists there as in Estonia.

11. Many people, including myself were obviously pleased when they heard the news of STALIN's death. Perhaps some devoted Communists were not happy, but many others celebrated his death and drank much vodka. Many people thought, perhaps wishfully, that war might come quickly after STALIN's death, because the regime would be weakened. People thought that perhaps the Western powers would attack or that maybe the Russians would start the war. It was very surprising to the people that such things as BERIA's arrest were going on in the Kremlin.

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13. I entered the German-controlled Omakaitse (or self-defense units) voluntarily. German defense units sooner just as willingly. What I and other Estonians were interested in was independence from both Germany and Russia. Comparing service in German and Soviet military units, I can say that the German Army was much better. In the Soviet Army we were treated like prisoners. We were not given weapons because we were not trusted by Soviet authorities. When I was transferred my only weapons were a pick and shovel. In my opinion the German soldier was better than the Soviet soldier. German soldiers were better equipped, had better weapons and uniforms, and were better fed. They served under a different and better system and benefited from superior technology. It is difficult to compare the fighting qualities of the German and Soviet soldiers, perhaps because I spent so much of my time in and had had no opportunity to observe them in combat. In a small combat unit, I would prefer to serve with Germans. Note: The only explanation could give for this preference was that the Germans were more cultured.

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14. There were very few partisans, if there were any at all, in Estonia when I left. From 1945 to 1948 there were a lot of partisans, but since 1950 nothing has been heard of them.
15. The Soviet system of schools had become well established in Estonia. In Halliste there was a seven-year school, and in Abja a ten-year school. School tuition was 150 rubles a year after the eighth grade. Instruction was all given in Estonian, but Russian was required as the first foreign language. Pupils could study English as the second foreign language. The schools were closed a month or two in the spring and the fall, when the children were made to work on the kolkhoz.
16. My sister, She lived in a school dormitory. I believe there was no charge for accommodations in the dormitory, but each pupil had to supply his own food. My sister was a member of the Komsomol, which seemed to be quite active in her school.

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17. In March or April of 1953, 20 pupils from the school in Abja, from 10 to 15 years old, were arrested for distributing propaganda. It seems that they were passing around letters about listening to the VOA. After about a month of imprisonment in Viljandi N 59-07, E 25-217, they were set free. One of the teachers, however, who was arrested because his pupils had engaged in this propaganda, was not released.
18. In June 1946 in the city of Vyru about 10 pupils were arrested for propaganda activities and for having connections with partisans. These pupils were sent away to camp and were not released. 50X1
19.
 German during the two years of my attendance. Russian and other languages were taught at this school, but none was taught at the
 know while serving with German-controlled defense units in Estonia during World War II. My limited knowledge of Russian was acquired while serving in Soviet military units and Soviet administered prisons and forced labor camps after the Soviet invasion of the Baltic countries in August and September 1944.)
20. There were fewer Jews in Estonia than there had been before the war. Many of them ran away when the Germans advanced into that area. Many others were put into prison or killed by the Germans. The Estonian Jews always managed to live well, and I believe that this was probably because Jews were in power in the Kremlin - for instance, KAGANOVICH, BERIA and MIKOYAN. The Estonian people put the Jews on the same level with the Russians and hated them both. The Jews were probably hated more than the Russians.
21. In 1945 two Jews came to Tallin and set up a sausage factory. The sausages were reportedly made of human flesh. I heard that children were enticed into the factory, where they were killed and ground up into sausage. The people knew of this and no one would buy the sausage. The two Jews were finally arrested by the MVD. I met an Estonian in a prison camp who said he, as a chauffeur, had taken MVD officers to this sausage factory to make the arrest.
22. I know an organization in 1948 or 1949 which had as its purpose the organized commission of sex crimes. There were about 20 men involved and they enticed girls into a cellar. These men eventually were tried before closed court for about three days and sentenced to various periods of confinement of from 8 to 10 or 15 years. I heard this story from a prisoner who had been in the same prison with them in Estonia.

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